

From: Andrew Bulmer
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft

I work at a non-profit non-governmental organisation. I use Microsoft Products such as Windows, Internet Explorer, and Office. This is not to say that I like these products but I must use them. Other organisations use these products and that means we must use these products. There are several facts I would like you to consider.

1. You cannot buy a PC that does not come with Windows pre-installed. Ocassionally an OEM will offer Linux but at the same price as Windows. If you check the prices all Linux Distributions are less than the price of Windows. Also you cannot get a PC that has both Windows and another operating system installed even though it is technically possible. I am assuming that MS's agreement with OEMs prohibit this.
2. File formats are kept secret. How many times have you received a Microsoft Word .doc file as an attachment to an email? I get a word document in the email almost every day. Since the file format is secret, only MS Word can open it. Since people regularly email word documents this means that I need to have word to view them.
3. The majority of people who surf the internet use MS Internet Explorer. This is because IE comes with Windows and Windows comes with their PCs (see above). This means that most web pages are designed to be viewed by IE only. Standards that are ignored by Microsoft are ignored by web developers.

When the anti-trust case against Microsoft began, Microsoft had a monopoly on the Operating System of PCs. Now Microsoft has a monopoly on the office suite, internet browser, media player, and is working on establishing a monopoly on gaming consoles (Xbox). You cannot use a computer without using Microsoft. This needs to be stopped.

Like I said earlier, I work for a non-profit organisation that does not have the money to be able to afford to upgrade our Microsoft products. The alternatives just aren't there, so we have to send money to microsoft that we would much rather use to teach children to read.

I hope that Microsoft's file formats, networking standards, and OEM agreements are opened up so that there can be some competition. I would like to see the prices fall and able to use alternate products.

Thank you for your time
Andrew Bulmer